

June 6, 2001

Mr. Brian Baird  
Ocean Program Manager  
The Resources Agency of California  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Baird:

I just finished studying the background materials and draft policy on coastal erosion. I was stunned by the lack of regard for the investments made by the families and individuals who have purchased and who own coastal California land and homes. In this letter, I have tried to outline clearly the three major problems I see with this draft.

1. This policy is a major change from the policies that were in effect when, the families and individuals who own coastal properties, made their respective decisions to purchase. This change in policy will, by definition, hamper the owners' ability to protect their property. This change would be clearly a "taking" of an important property right.
2. The draft policy makes no distinction between rural undeveloped coastal areas and urban developed areas. This is a major mistake. A set of rules for an undeveloped area should be very different from those in an urban coastal area. To try to lump them into one blanket policy is foolish at best. I would think that "relocation" and "soft protection" may work in undeveloped areas but in an urbanized developed area, they are ridiculous.
3. The size of the coastal property is not considered in the draft policy. With almost 1000 miles of coastline, an individual's 50 foot wide bluff top lot cannot possibly be an important source of statewide beach sand. There must be a point where the pain created by this proposed policy will be too great for the extremely limited reward that may be received.

Please take the steps necessary to revise this draft policy to make it less meanspirited and more reasonable and respectful of the California families who own coastal property.

Sincerely,



Tom & Noreen Martin

Office: P.O. Box 12060  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
Telephone 805/545-7900  
Fax 805/545-7590